

Sanitized - Approved For Release

## QUEENS READER, 7, CHALLENGES REDS

'A'-Pupil Is Incensed After  
Viewing Articles Giving  
Young Ivan the Edge

By McCANDLISH PHILLIPS

If there is a youngster anywhere in Russia who thinks he can read better than Brian Griffin of Queens, Brian Griffin would be happy to knock his illusions into a cocked shapka.

At 7 years old Brian Griffin reads newspapers, library books, junior encyclopedias, magazines and the backs, fronts and sides of cereal boxes.

The other day Brian was lounging around reading the morning paper—Brian Griffin and the morning newspaper are of about equal stature—when he spotted an article unfavorably comparing the literacy of American children to that of Russian children. This struck Brian as being a vile calumny (fancy talk for "a dirty lie").

"What is it this, the Russians can read better than I can?" Brian asked his mother. When she gave an unsatisfactory answer, Brian got a piece of looseleaf paper and wrote a letter to The New York Times, challenging "any child from Russia" to see "if he can keep up with me in reading."

Yesterday, at his home at 110-27 Fifteenth Avenue in College Point, Brian demonstrated his ability by reading James Reston's Washington column aloud to two of his three brothers and two of his sisters.

### A Scrunching Session

Brian's method on the longest words is to study them syllable by syllable, then to close his eyes, scrunch up his face and expel the syllables in original sequence.

"If he doesn't know a word, he always makes a stab at it," his mother, Mrs. John Griffin, said. The results appear in parentheses:

"The Cuban fiasco (fishio) illustrated the point. The whole operation was not only planned, financed and carried out by the Central Intelligence Agency, a branch of the Federal Government, but C. I. A. officials [awful-as] imprisoned the Cuban refugee leaders during the 1950s and put out misleading information in their name."

Other examples: "Per-sec-sha-bee" for perspective; "pub-el-ek-sun" for publications, and "presly" for precisely.

Brian, a second grade pupil at St. John's School, 134-08 66th Avenue in the school district, said: "I'm a student in every-

The New York Times

**ISSUES A CHALLENGE:**  
Brian Griffin, 7, who offered to test his reading ability against Russians.

Brian explained that there were no reading problems among Soviet pupils because no child was promoted in the Soviet Union from the first or second grade until he could read properly.

Sister Rosemary said that at

had each first grader come into her office alone and read something from an unfamiliar text. If a child does not read well or does not retain what he has read, he is not promoted.

Asked to sum up his impressions of the Russians, Brian said:

"I think they're bad. I think they kill a lot. I think they can read a little well."

CPYRGHT

CPYRGHT

FOIA b3b